

Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

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E.O.11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG

REF: PEKING 1789

1. SITUATION IN PEKING AT 1800 HOURS LOCAL SEPTEMBER 11.
 2. RADIO CARRIES, IN ADDITION TO THE SEPTEMBER 9 ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONDOLENCE MESSAGES FROM PROVINCE-LEVEL PARTY AND REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES, MILITARY REGION PARTY COMMITTEES AND FOREIGN LEADERS, AND THE LONG SEPTEMBER 10 NCNA PIECE ON LOCAL REACTIONS IN CHINA TO MAO'S DEATH. THE EIGHT-PAGE PEOPLE'S DAILY (DELIVERED TO USLO AL SDT EIGHT HOURS LATER THAN USUAL) INCLUDES TEXTS OF CONDOLENCE MESSAGES -- IN EFFECT ALSO PLEDGES OF LOYALTY -- FROM 5 OF THE 11 MILITARY REGION PARTY COMMITTEES AND 10 OF THE 29 PROVINCE-LEVEL ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITIES. WE ASSUME SIMILAR MESSAGES FROM ALL
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OTHERS WILL BE RUN IN LATER ISSUES. OF THE EIGHT PHOTOS OF MAO

IN PEOPLE'S DAILY, THE LATEST IS DATED 1936. WE ASSUME A GOOD MANY MORE WILL BE PUBLISHED DURING THE MOURNING PERIOD. THE FOREIGN MESSAGES RATING FRONT PAGE TREATMENT ARE, NOT SURPRISINGLY, FROM NORTH KOREA, ALBANIA AND ROMANIA.

3. SEPTEMBER 11 IS THE FIRST DAY OF OFFICIAL MOURNING SERVICES FOR MAO TSE-TUNG IN THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE. SINCE MORNING ALL APPROACHES TO THE AREA HAVE BEEN CLOSED TO PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE TRAFFIC, BUT MOTOR TRAFFIC IS STILL ALLOWED TO PROCEED ALONG CHANG AN STREET (WHICH CROSSES THE AREA EAST-WEST, RUNNING NORTH OF THE GREAT HALL-TIEN AN MEN SQUARE COMPLEX AND SOUTH OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY). ON THE SQUARE (JUST EAST OF THE GREAT HALL) VARIOUS MILITARY AND CIVILIAN UNITS, ARRIVING IN PROCESSIONS OF BUSES AND TRUCKS, FORM RANKS AND AWAIT THEIR TURN TO FILE INTO THE GREAT HALL BY THE NORTH ENTRANCE. BY MID-DAY THE SQUARE WAS NEARLY FILLED WITH NEATLY RANKED VEHICLES AND MOURNERS. AT THIS RATE IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT SEVERAL MILLION CHINESE WILL HAVE WALKED PAST THE CHAIRMAN'S REMAINS BY THE LAST DAY OF SERVICES IN THE GREAT HALL, SEPTEMBER 17. (DIPLOMATS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS IN PEKING ARE TO PAY THEIR LAST RESPECTS ON SEPTEMBER 13.)

4. STORES, MOST BY NOW WITH MOURNING DECORATIONS IN THEIR WINDOWS (CHIEFLY LARGE WHITE PAPER BALLS), TJE OPEN DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS. THE PEKING FRIENDSHIP STORE HAS A PARTICULARLY ELABORATE DISPLAY OVER ITS ENTRANCE INCLUDING THE BLACK-BORDERED INSCRIPTION "ETERNAL GLORY TO OUR GREAT LEADER CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG." THE CITY SEEMS QUIETER THAN USUAL--PERHAPS THE PROHIBITION OF "RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES" IS A FACTOR -- BUT CALM AND GENERALLY RELAXED.

5. ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 10 THE TIEN AN MEN SQUARE AREA REMAINED OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND MANY THOUSANDS MOVED ABOUT IT CASUALLY. THE MARTYRS' MONUMENT ON THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF THIS SQUARE AND THE PORTRAIT OF MAO (BLACK-AND-YELLOW DRAPED LIKE OTHERS IN THE CITY) LOOKING DOWN ON THE SQUARE FROM ABOVE THE SOUTHERN ENTRANCE TO THE FORBIDDEN CITY (THE ACTUAL TIEN AN MEN) WERE THE CHIEF ATTRACTIONS, THOUGH SEVERAL HUNDRED WAORHED FROM ACROSS THE STREET THE EAST ENTRANCE OF THE GREAT HALL, WITHIN WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A LARGE MEETING WAS IN PROGRESS. FROM THIS ENTRANCE A GROUP OF ABOUT FIFTY IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, POSSIBLY AN HONOR ESCORT OF SOME KIND, MARCHED IN RANKS THROUGH THE GATE INTO THE FORBIDDEN CITY ABOUT 2200 HOURS.

6. BY 2000 HOURS SEPTEMBER 10, CROWDS NUMBERING IN THE THOUSANDS HAD CONVERGED ON THE BRIDGE LEADING TO THIS GATE. MUCH SMALLER GROUPS ASSEMBLED THERE THE PRECEDING AFTERNOON AND EVENING HAD

GAZED UP AT THE PORTRAIT OF CHAIRMAN MAO WITHOUT VISIBLE EMOTION.
BUT THIS LATER ASSEMBLAGE INCLUDED A FEW SO OVERCOME WITH GRIEF THAT
FRIENDS OR BYSTANDERS HAD TO ASSIST THEM AWAY. MANY, FROM THE VERY
YOUNG TO THE AGED, WERE SOBBING AUDIBLY, WHILE A GREAT MANY MORE STOOD

SILENTLY IN CLUSTERS OF THREES AND FOURS WITH EYES RED AND PUFFY
FROM WEeping. SEVERAL ELDERLY PERSONS -- BOTH MEN AND WOMEN -- WAILED
LUUDLY AND INCOHERENTLY; ONE OLD WOMAN SEEMED TO BE SAYING AGAIN
AND AGAIN "IT'S ALL OVER, IT'S ALL OVER" (WAN LE, WAN LE).

7. AT THE MARTYR'S MONUMENT, SILENT AND WELL-DISCIPLINED
CROWDS CONTINUED TO GROW THROUGHOUT THE EVENING. MORE ROSETTES WERE
ENTWINED IN THE GUARD CHAIN, AND A FEW MORE BOUQUETS AND WREATHS
WERE PLACED UNDER THE NORTH FACE. THE ONLY WREATH WITH A VISIBLE
LEGEMO INDICATED THAT IT HAD BEEN PLACED BY THE "HANGCHOW CHEMICAL
INDUSTRIES BUREAU." THESE DECORATIONS-- BARELY VISIBLE FROM A FEW
HUNDRED FEET AWAY -- WERE APPARENTLY ALL REMOVED DURING THE NIGHT.
DEAN

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